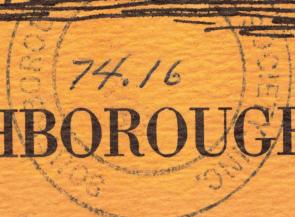




MEETING • HOUSE  
1870  
SOUTH BOROUGH

Know Your Town SOUTH BOROUGH



# **SOUTHBOROUGH MASSACHUSETTS**

*A Guide To Community Life  
and  
Local Government*

*Compiled By The Southborough Unit  
of the  
Westborough Area  
League of Women Voters  
1972*

## *Table of Contents*

History of Southborough .....	5
Community Profile .....	6
Geographic Characteristics — Cultural Activities — News Media — Library	
Local Government .....	9
Registration and Voting	
Town Meeting — Town Officials	
Financial Structure — .....	12
Advisory Committee — Assessors	
Treasurer and Tax Collector	
Budget	
Public Health .....	14
Administration —	
Facilities and Programs	
Social Services .....	15
Public Welfare	
Municipal Services .....	15
Public Utilities	
Highway Department	
Transportation	
Water Department	
Public Protection .....	17
Police Department — Fire Department	
Civil Defense	
Housing, Planning, Zoning .....	18
Building Standards	
Planning — Zoning	
Industrial Commission	
Conservation, Parks and Recreation.....	19
Education .....	19
School Finance — Teaching Staff	
Special Programs — Transportation	
Independent Schools	

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Southborough Unit  
League of Women Voters  
Westborough Area

# History of Southborough

Within twenty years from the time the Pilgrims had landed at Plymouth and founded their first settlement, many men and women had ventured forth from England to seek their fortunes in the New World.

By 1656, a petition signed by thirteen persons had been presented to the authorities and a land grant was issued for a tract, six miles square, in the area now known as Marlborough. A year later eight others had joined those original thirteen.

Those early settlers managed, for a time, to maintain friendly relations with their Indian neighbors, but trouble struck when, in 1665, the settlers were attacked in their meeting house by the now hostile Indians.

In spite of many dangers, the settlement grew. Farms and homesteads were established at a considerable distance from the center of the community. An area known as the "cow commons" was set apart for summer pasturage. This tract was bounded in the north by the Assabet River, in the west by Stirrup Brook and on the south by Stony Brook.

New homesteads were located south of Stony Brook in what is now Southborough Center and the village of Fayville.

On July 6, 1727, the General Court passed the act dividing the town of Marlborough and incorporating the new town of Southborough. Included in this act was the requirement that a suitable house for the public worship of God be erected and that a school master be provided to instruct the youth in reading and writing.

At the first Town Meeting, in July, 1727, a Moderator, three Selectmen, a Town Clerk, Assessor, Town Treasurer, Constable, Surveyor of Highways, and Fence Viewers were elected, and in 1737, the town sent a Representative to the General Court.

Southborough joined with other communities in the area in opposing British taxes and British rule. On September 5, 1774, Southborough formed its first military company — the Minute Men — and on June 10, 1775, it voted with other towns in declaring the Colonies an Independent Nation. There followed the Declaration of Independence and war with Britain.

In 1861, the voters of Southborough proved themselves solidly behind President Lincoln by voting unanimously to support him with every able-bodied citizen and "every dollar in town, if necessary." Two hundred and nineteen men — thirty-three more than Southborough's quota — served their country. The monument on the Common bears the names of seventeen men and boys who made the supreme sacrifice during the War Between the States.

Although the townspeople were primarily concerned with farming, manufacturing flourished during the 19th Century producing boots, shoes, cotton and woolen goods. The factories gradually disappeared and when the Metropolitan Water Commission took over 1,200 acres of land and Stony Brook became a Metropolitan Aqueduct, the last of the mills was abandoned. Dairy farms predominated and in 1847 Dr. Joseph Burnett, a pioneer in scientific farming and an early importer of Jersey cattle, founded the Deerfoot Farms.

Today Southborough is primarily a residential community with some farming still evident. Recently, however, because of the heavy tax burden on residents, there has been a move to encourage the growth of light industry in the town.

## **Community Profile**

### *Community Characteristics*

Southborough's geographical location, its position between Boston and Worcester, its proximity to major highways such as routes 9 and 495, all contribute to its strong appeal to all types of business and industry. Steady growth in this area is anticipated over the next three or four years.

There are already a variety of businesses located in Southborough, including several trucking firms, a distributor of frozen food and a computer manufacturing company.

62% of Southborough land is residential. The Metropolitan District Commission (the Sudbury Reservoir) owns 25% of the land. Other tax exempt lands total 6% and industrial and business comprise 7%. The tax-exempt non-profit institutions are the Harvard Medical Research Center, St. Mark's School, and the Fay School. Southborough's 1971 population was approximately 5,900. In 1965 the population was 4,780 and in 1960 it was 3,991. This increase can be attributed to the overall economic growth of the area and the desirability of the community as a place in which to live.

There were 2,254 registered voters in 1960. As of September 10, 1969, the voters numbered only 2,547. This insignificant increase in registered voters appears to reflect a younger population and the transient nature of many new residents.

The majority of Southborough's residents do not work in the community, but commute between Southborough and the many surrounding towns and cities.

## *Community Life*

Southborough's residents enjoy an immense variety of clubs and other organizational activities.

There are six churches in town: Faith Gospel Chapel, First Community Church, St. Matthew's, Roman Catholic Church, St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Pilgrim Church, the United Church of Christ, and St. Anne's Roman Catholic Church.

There are several voluntary welfare organizations in Southborough, including FISH, South Middlesex Opportunity Council, and the Marlborough-Westborough Mental Health Association.

Other civic and social organizations include: The American Field Service, American Legion, Southborough Minutemen, Historical Society, Knights of Columbus, Police Association, Republican Town Committee, Rotary, Masonic Lodge, Senior Citizens, Brownies, Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts. Also represented are the Couples Club, Garden Club, Women's Club, Rod and Gun Club, Lions Club, Interested Citizens Committee, Grange, 4-H clubs, Ice Hockey League, Little League, Pop Warner Football League, Veterans of Foreign Wars and Women's Auxiliary, Southborough Village Society, Teen Canteen, Southborough Organization for Schools, Southboro Players, Fire-fighters Association, Friends of Southborough Library, United Parishes of Southborough, the League of Women Voters, and Southborough Catholic Women's Club.

## *News Media*

Southborough has no town newspaper. However, the Southborough Village Society distributes, free of charge to all town residents, a monthly newsletter and Calendar of Events. Local coverage of town news is also provided by the Framingham News, the Marlboro Enterprise-Sun and the Worcester Telegram and Gazette.

Radio Stations WSRO in Marlborough, WKOX in Framingham, and WTAG in Worcester serve Southborough with local news and items of interest.

## *Library*

Southborough is very proud of its library, the fourth oldest public library in the United States. The library was opened in 1852 and operates today on a budget of approximately \$25,000 per year, most of which is contributed by the town from tax revenue.

The Southborough library is directed by a Board of Trustees composed of six elected members on a rotating basis for three year terms. The librarian, hired by the Board of Trustees, administers the budget and hires assistants.

The library contains approximately 23,700 adult volumes, and approximately 6,000 children's books, offering fiction, non-fiction, general reference, periodicals, recreational materials and many books relating to homemaking, home repair, hobbies and so forth.

The library is a member of the Central Massachusetts Regional Library System. This enables Southborough patrons to have free borrowing privileges throughout Worcester County, and to use the extended services of a larger library: free films, telephone reference service, inter library loans.

Special services available include: print rental, children's tape recorders and cassettes for listening in the reading room.

The Southborough Historical Society presents a monthly exhibit in their display case.

## *Museums*

Southborough is the home of an Antique Car Museum. The museum is owned and operated by Mr. Cameron Bradley. Established in 1929, the museum houses approximately twenty cars. The museum is open to the public by appointment at no charge, but due to the uniqueness of the exhibits, large groups of children are not admitted without ample and proper supervision.

## *Historical Commission*

Southborough's Historical Commission was created in 1969 by a vote of the Town Meeting. It has five members who serve three-year terms and are appointed by the Selectmen. The Commission is making an inventory of sites and structures of historical value in Southborough.

# Local Government

"In order to prevent those who are vested with authority from becoming oppressors, the people have a right at such periods and in such manner as they shall establish by their frame of government, to cause their public officers to return to private life; and to fill up vacant places by certain and regular election and appointment."

Constitution of Massachusetts  
Declaration of Rights, Article VIII

Each citizen of Southborough can share in shaping the character of his government through his active participation in civic affairs. If he is a registered voter, he can make his voice heard through his power at the ballot box.

To become a registered voter one must be a citizen of the United States, 18 years of age or more on election day, a resident of Massachusetts for 6 months and of Southborough 6 months immediately preceding the date of election or primary.

## *Registration*

You may register to vote at the Town Clerk's office which is located in the Town Hall during regular office hours. Special registration periods are held before each election and published in local news media so that all those who wish to register may have every opportunity to do so. To qualify to vote in a Town election, you must register 31 days before Federal elections, 31 days before State elections, and 20 days before Town elections, including Town Meeting. If a person is unable to appear in person to register because of illness, travel, or military service, arrangements for absentee registration may be made with the Board of Registrars. Registration is done according to party preference and is permanent unless there is a change of name or a change of address to another city or town.

The Board of Registrars is appointed by the Selectmen. The Board, acting under State law, has charge of the registration of voters and keeps lists of voters current. If a citizen is no longer entitled to vote, an official notice is sent before his name is removed from the registration lists.

## *Voting Procedures*

Voting in elections and primaries is presently held in two locations: Precinct I, Town Hall and Precinct II, Mary E. Finn School. Sample ballots must be posted outside the polling places. If an absentee ballot is necessary, an application is required and may be obtained

from the Town Clerk. Town elections take place on the third Monday in March of each year. State primaries and State and Federal elections are held as designated by law.

## ***Town Meeting***

Southborough has the most democratic form of government left in the United States today . . . open Town Meeting. Every registered voter has the opportunity to be heard provided he follows parliamentary procedure. The basis of authority in the Town is a General Charter but the Town has its own by-laws which may be changed or amended by the voters at Town Meeting. The Moderator presides over the meeting, maintaining order and making public all votes of the meeting. He appoints members to various town committees which include the Advisory Committee (Financial) and the Personnel Board which sets salaries of the Town employees. Annual Town Meeting is held on the second Monday in March.

## ***The Warrant***

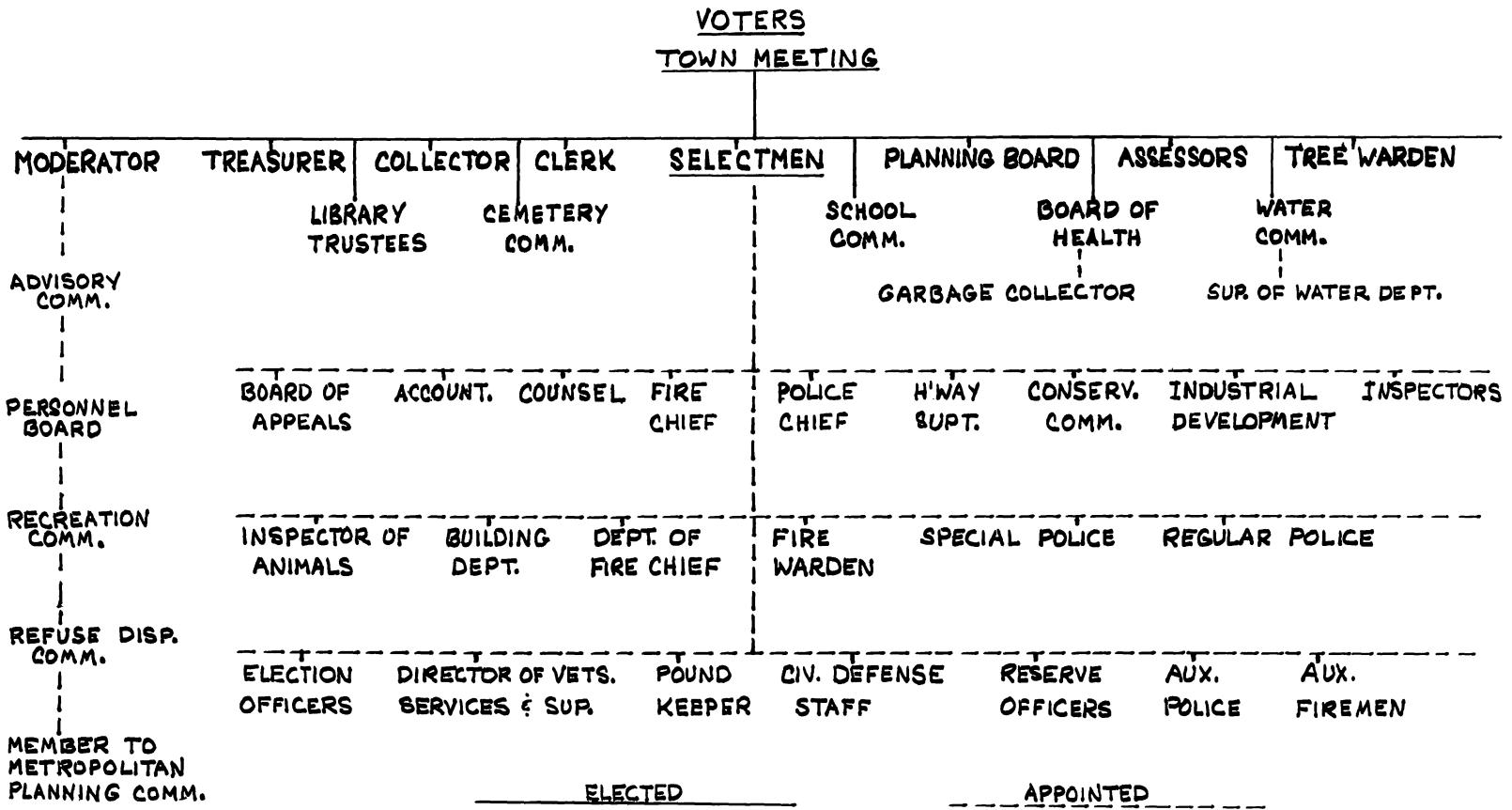
Articles for the Warrant are under the jurisdiction of the Selectmen, Citizens of the Town have the right of free petition. Town departments present their articles directly to the Selectmen for inclusion in the Warrant. Warrant articles are checked by the Town Counsel for legal form and are then passed on to the Advisory Committee for its recommendations. The Warrant, together with the Town Report, prepared by the Town Clerk, is delivered to each citizen so that he may come to Town Meeting with some knowledge of the articles on which he will be asked to vote.

## ***Board of Selectmen***

Administrative responsibility for the Town government is vested primarily in the Board of Selectmen, which consists of three members elected at large for three-year staggered terms. Their duties, in addition to general management, are to compromise claims and defend suits, execute deeds, have custody of surety bonds, execute the sale of lands of low value, and issue permits and licenses. All powers not specifically delegated to other Town departments or to the Town Meeting are vested in the Board of Selectmen.

## ***Planning Board***

The Planning Board is made up of five members with overlapping five-year terms. Some of the duties of the Board are to prepare a Master Plan, hold hearings and make recommendations on proposed zoning changes, approve or disapprove subdivision plans, report on the layout, alteration, relocation or discontinuance of public ways,



prepare studies and plans, review all plans not requiring subdivision approval, and submit an annual report.

## ***Town Clerk***

The Town Clerk is elected for a three-year term. He is responsible for recording deeds, preparing the Town Report, keeping the minutes of the Town Meeting, issuing various licenses (marriage, dog, hunting) and certificates (birth, death), keeping the Town Seal, recording and posting all committee and elected board meetings. He is also Clerk of the Board of Registrars and responsible for and in charge of all Town, State, and Federal elections and primaries, preparing voting lists, conducting and preparing street listings of all persons 17 years of age and older, administering oath of office to all elected and appointed Town officials and recording all elected and appointed Town officials.

## **Town Finance**

### ***Advisory Committee***

This committee consists of a six-man board, two of whom are appointed yearly by the Moderator for a three-year term. Their duties are strictly financial and it is their job to review budgets presented for Town operation and the articles in the Warrant and make recommendations. Final decision on each item is made by the voters at the Town Meeting.

### ***Treasurer and Tax Collector***

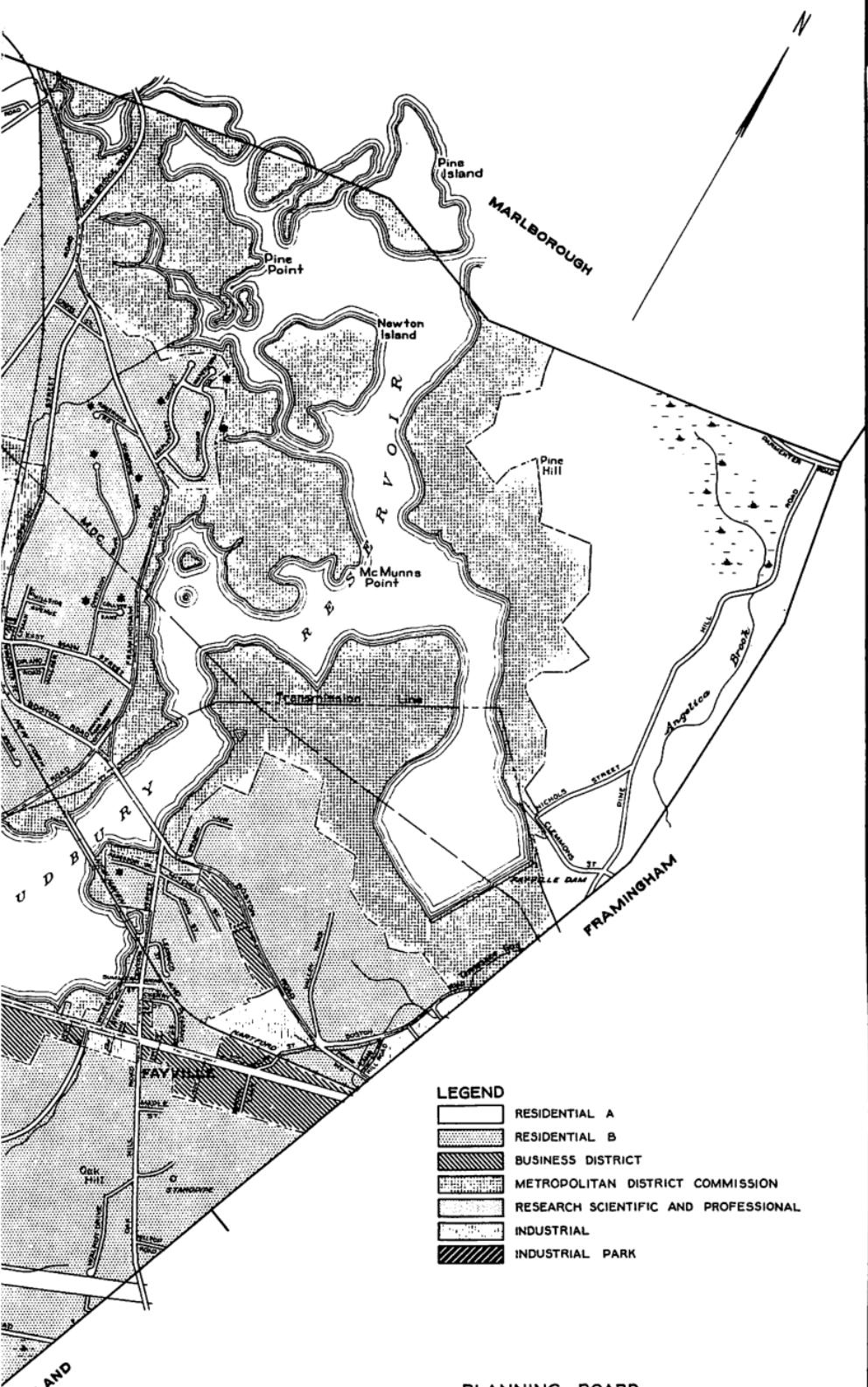
The responsibility of the Town Treasurer is primarily the custody of local funds. He may make payments from them over the signature of the Town Accountant (Auditor) and with the approval of the Selectmen.

The Treasurer is elected for a one-year term.

The Tax Collector, whose duty is the collection of excise, special assessment, and local property taxes, is elected for a three-year period.

### ***Accounting***

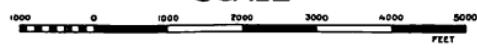
The Town Accountant (Auditor) is appointed by the Selectmen for a three-year term. All money transactions for every department are reviewed by the Accountant before being passed on to the Treasurer for execution. The Accountant's books are audited on an annual basis by the State.



PLANNING BOARD  
TOWN OF  
**SOUTHBOROUGH**  
WORCESTER COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS  
ZONING BY-LAW MAP  
1964

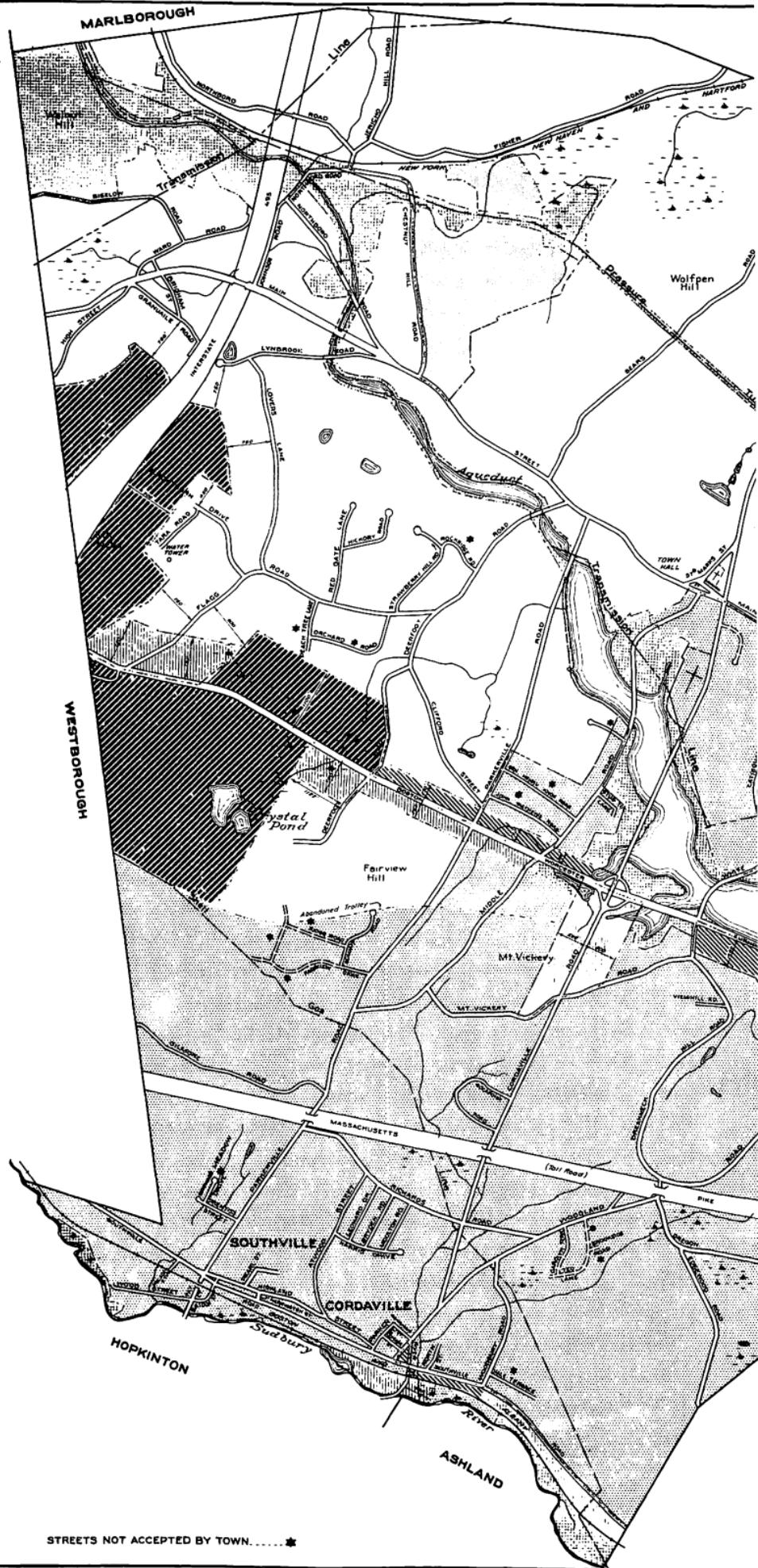
JAMES W. SEWALL COMPANY    OLD TOWN, MAINE

SCALE

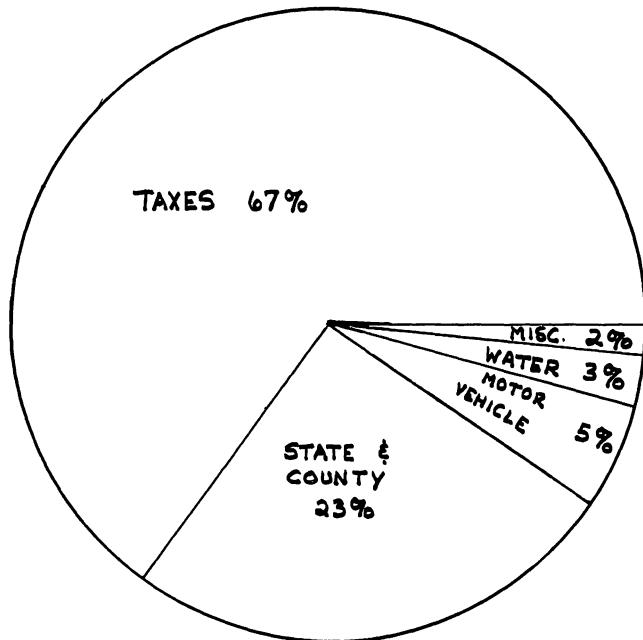


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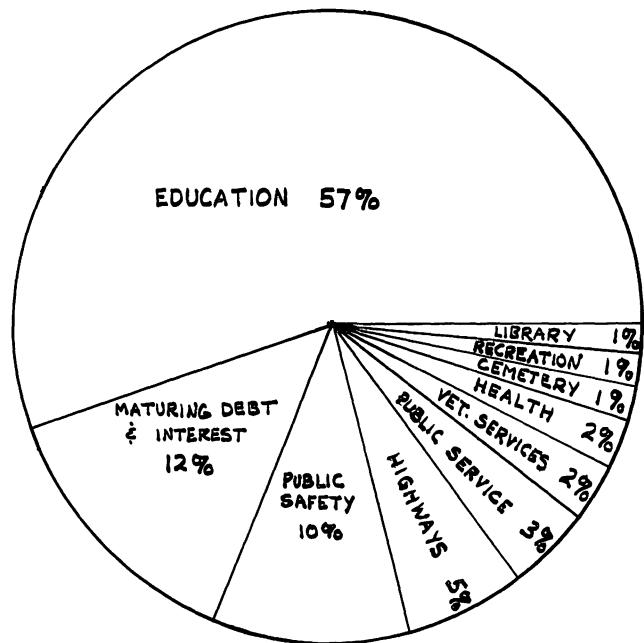
APRIL, 1969  
Copied from previous Zoning By-Law Map  
and Information. For exact descriptions  
refer to 1955 Zoning By-Law and Amendments  
through April, 1969.



INCOME\*



EXPENDITURES\*



\* APPROXIMATE PERCENTAGES

## ***Assessors***

Southborough has three assessors elected for a three-year term. They are not required by law to have any particular training or experience, however, our assessors have some knowledge of building construction and have taken courses in real estate.

## ***Budget***

There is not a comprehensive budget which includes all revenue and expenditures. Each department prepares its own budget. All budgets are presented to the Advisory Committee for approval. They are then submitted to the Town Meeting to be approved or disallowed. It is interesting to note that the Town Meeting has the power to cut the budget but not to increase it. There is no single body in Southborough which can appropriate funds, all budgets must be brought before the Town Meeting. However, once approved, the department head can transfer items inside his appropriation if he finds it is warranted. There is a Reserve Fund in the complete Town Budget, but none for individual departments. The amount is currently \$30,000, obtained from prior revenues received from property taxes. Therefore, it does not affect the current tax rate. The Advisory Board alone approves any amount taken from the Reserve Fund for extraordinary or unforeseen expenditures.

# **Public Health**

## ***Board of Health***

Southborough has a three-member Board of Health, members of which are elected for three-year staggered terms. While there are no specific qualifications for the Board, one physician is usually a member. The functions of the Board are issuance for sewage disposal system permits, sanitary inspection of schools and restaurants (which is done under contract with Middlesex Laboratories). Other functions are issuance of burial certificates, monitoring of communicable diseases, issuance of licenses to establishments that sell food, and administering the garbage contract.

## ***Preventive Medicine***

Children of Southborough receive the following Health care through the years:

Pre-school vaccinations and DPT injections

TB skin test in First Grade

Diphtheria and Tetanus booster shots in the Fifth Grade

Mumps immunization to Junior High pupils not previously immunized

## ***Mental Health***

Southborough is now a part of the Marlboro-Westboro Chapter of the Mental Health Association. An out-patient clinic is available to residents at Marlboro Hospital on Tuesdays. Currently, the Marlboro Nursing Home is being remodeled into an Adult Mental Health Center which will open in the Fall.

## ***Public Health Nurse***

Southborough does not have its own Public Health Nurse, but home nursing service is provided by the Framingham Visiting Nurse Association which is a private non-profit organization to which Southboro contributes some financial support.

# **Social Services**

## ***Public Welfare***

Southborough has no Public Welfare office. The program is administered through a Marlboro office which is under the jurisdiction of the Worcester Regional Welfare Office.

Cases under Old Age Assistance, Medical Assistance, Aid to Families with Dependent Children, Disability, and the General Relief Fund are processed by the Marlboro office.

Rules established by the State Welfare Department are used to determine eligibility and the amount of aid to be given. Social Services as well as financial assistance are furnished to those in need.

Cases requiring services of a specialized nature, which might include public health, children's services, and medical problems are referred to appropriate agencies when necessary.

The major cost of assistance is borne by the State and Federal Governments in differing proportions.

# **Municipal Services**

## ***Public Utilities***

Electricity, telephone, and gas services are provided to the town by privately owned utilities:

Electricity — Massachusetts Electric  
Telephone — New England Telephone  
Gas — Worcester Gas light

## *Highway Department*

The Southborough Highway Department is responsible for street construction and maintenance. The head of this department (Highway Superintendent) is appointed annually by the Board of Selectmen. This department is also responsible for street cleaning, snow removal and the sanding of all parking lots and schools, five churches and the cemetery; sidewalk construction and maintenance, and the installation of street signs. In addition, this department cares for the town dump and the cutting of brush along the sides of roads.

Street and sidewalk construction and maintenance are financed in different ways. The streets in the town under Chapter 81 and Chapter 90 are financed in part by the state (almost  $\frac{1}{4}$ ). Sidewalks come under the Highway Department budget and are borne by the town.

Within its municipal limits, Southborough has Routes 9, 30, 495, and the Massachusetts Turnpike. These roads are built and maintained by the state. There is no special routing of traffic through town. However, if this should be necessary at any time, it would be handled by the Police Department. Within its limits, Southborough has no municipally owned parking lots or municipal expressways.

## *Transportation*

The only public-transit facilities that are available to Southborough residents are the B&W bus and the Hughes Bus Line. The B&W bus travels hourly between Worcester and Boston along Route 9. The Hughes Line runs 6 trips daily. The first and last trips run between Hudson and Fayville and the middle four trips run between Hudson and Shoppers' World. This bus may be boarded at the Southborough Drug Store.

## *Water Department*

The Southborough Water Department is municipally owned, and administered by a Board of Water Commissioners and Superintendent. This Board consists of three men elected for three-year staggered terms. The Superintendent is appointed annually.

This department is financed by appropriation voted on at Town Meeting. Utility rates are determined by the authority of the Board.

Approximately 2/3 of the existing streets in the town are supplied with water, but at the present time not all are adequately serviced.

At present there is no sewage system. However, there is a 5-man Sewage Feasibility Study Commission.

# **Public Protection**

## *Police Department*

The Southborough Police Chief is appointed by the Board of Selectmen as are the regular and reserve patrolmen. The Department consists of the Police Chief, three sergeants, five patrolmen and four reserve officers and two ~~patrons~~. All the men are graduates of a Police Training Academy. There is an in-service training program and a retirement plan.

There is one police station and two patrol cars. The department communications system includes telephones and one base station, one remote and two mobile sets in cruisers.

All of the officers come under the Worcester County Retirement Plan.

## *Fire Department*

The Fire Department Chief is appointed by the Selectmen. Department personnel consists of a permanent Chief, six permanent fire fighters with one being on duty in each station at all times. The permanent force is augmented by approximately forty call members that respond when they are available.

Salaries are set by a vote at Town Meeting as recommended by the Personnel Board. Regular fire drills are conducted in all the Southborough schools. The department maintains two stations that house three pumping engines, one aerial ladder, one quad (combination ladder and pump), one rescue truck, and one ambulance.

The department enjoys an excellent mutual aid system with surrounding towns and works closely with the police department on all emergencies.

All permanent men are members of the Worcester County Retirement System.

## *Civil Defense*

Southborough's Civil Defense Director is appointed by the Selectmen. The program is town financed with occasional federal funding participation on equipment purchase. In case of general disaster, the program receives its orders from the State Headquarters which is located in Framingham.

# **Housing, Planning, Zoning**

## ***Housing***

Most houses in Southborough are single family dwellings. At the present time there is no public housing in Southborough, although a study is currently underway to determine housing needs for the elderly.

## ***Planning***

The Planning Board consists of five members elected for five-year staggered terms. The Board must approve all proposed subdivisions as well as review any other plans. Residential subdivisions are restricted to one dwelling per lot with rules on the layout and construction of streets, drainage, sidewalks and utilities.

In 1971, the Board began a study of the zoning along Route 9. A cluster zoning study and an underground wiring study are planned for the future. In April 1971 the Board updated its Rules and Regulations which govern the preparation of subdivision plans, and the construction of subdivision roads.

A Master Plan for the town was prepared by the Adams, Howard & Greeley Planning Consultants in February, 1962. The Study was authorized by the Town Meeting of March, 1960, and includes recommendations in all areas relating to the town's growth. Copies of this Plan may be borrowed from the Southborough Library.

Southborough is a member of the Metropolitan Area Planning Council, which comprises representatives from most cities and towns surrounding Boston. Its functions are to conduct regional planning studies on open-space, recreation, low income housing, etc.

## ***Zoning***

Zoning areas in Southborough may be changed only by an affirmative two-thirds vote at a Town Meeting. The town, through Zoning Bylaws, enforced by the Board of Selectmen, is zoned into districts of six types: Residential A, Residential B, Business, Industrial, Industrial Parks and Research, Scientific and Professional.

The Bylaws control use, size of lots, size of buildings (in other than residential zones) and frontages. Zoning amendments may be submitted by town boards or by a group of ten or more registered town voters.

Since the present zoning ordinances were adopted in 1955, there have been several amendments and revisions, although no full-scale revision of the entire Bylaws.

The Zoning Board of Appeals is a five-member Board appointed by the Selectmen for five-year terms. Applications for zoning variances and special permits are made by application to the Board of Appeals; also, the Board of Appeals has jurisdiction to hear appeals of persons aggrieved by decisions of other town officers and boards relative to decisions on the zoning by-law.

## ***Industrial Commission***

Southborough's Industrial Commission is a five-member board appointed by the Board of Selectmen for five-year terms. The Commission's purposes are: a. To help attract industry to Southborough by working cooperatively with land owners and prospective industries. b. To guide industrial prospects in obtaining correct papers from the town boards, and c. To plan for future industrial growth in cooperation with the Planning Board and Selectmen, and by working with the State Department of Commerce in workshops held for the towns along Route 495.

## **Conservation, Parks and Recreation**

### ***Conservation***

Southborough's Conservation Commission was created in 1960 by a vote of Town Meeting. It is a seven-member Board appointed by the Selectmen for terms of one to three years.

The Commission's purposes are twofold: a. The promotion and development of natural resources, and b. The protection of watershed resources.

The goal of both purposes is to make Southborough a more pleasant and attractive place to live both now and in the future. The powers of the Commission are as follows: The Conservation Commission may prepare and distribute printed materials such as maps, books and pamphlets. It may adopt rules governing the use of land and water under its control. It may acquire land or water rights by gifts, subject to the approval of a 2/3 vote of Town Meeting or the Board of Selectmen. It also conducts Hatch Act Hearings. Money placed in the Conservation Fund as a result of gifts or town appropriation is a separate account, and does not revert to the town's general fund.

## *Parks and Recreation*

Southborough's Parks and Recreation programs are administered by a five-member Recreation Commission, appointed by the Town Moderator. A professional director is hired on a part-time basis.

The Recreation Department is responsible for the maintenance of playgrounds used in Department programs. There are five fields and playgrounds open to the public in Southborough: Fayville playgrounds, Mary Finn playground, Mooney Field, Choate Field, and Margaret Neary playground.

A summer playground program is sponsored by the Recreation Department as well as a tennis program, a softball program, a swimming program and life saving classes. There are also outside trips to places of interest for children.

The winter program includes ski lessons, basketball, girls' figure skating, ice hockey and field trips. A gym program for men and women is held at Woodward school.

Southborough has an active Little League and Pop Warner Football League, originally sponsored by the Recreation Department but now run independently. Also available are Scouting for boys and girls and 4-H clubs. A Teen Canteen, sponsored by the Southborough Village Society is available for older children.

There are numerous other recreational programs throughout the year sponsored by various organizations.

## *Administrative Organization*

The School Committee is the unit of local government which administers the public school system. The School Committee is elected and consists of five members without specified qualifications. Each member serves a three-year term. The Committee has administrative power over all school business, i.e. hiring, dismissals, collective bargaining, policy making, etc. It meets twice monthly, once for elementary concerns and once on Regional High School matters. The meetings are open to the public and are usually covered by reporters. The Committee reports to the taxpayers in the Town Annual Report.

The local Superintendent of Schools is selected by vote of Union #3 (the towns of Northborough and Southborough), and the Northborough-Southborough Regional School District Committee. Three votes from Southborough and three votes from Northborough cast by senior Committee members constitute the six votes of the Union Committee. The Superintendent is the chief authority of the Union and Regional School District, and has responsibility over all schools. The local School Committee derives its power from the State Board of Education.

## ***School Finance***

The local source of school revenue is derived primarily from real estate tax monies. School bond issues are used as a means to finance building needs. Experience shows that the State contributes approximately 17% of total public funds for schools, the federal government approximately 2%, and local taxes approximately 81%.

State aid is based on expenditures, and includes reimbursements for special classes and transportation, tuition and transportation for state wards, vocational education and transportation, school lunch program, regular transportation, and State aid to public schools under Chapters 70 and 71. Other programs are funded under various federal public laws which provide grants for such items as remedial instruction under Title I, and library books under Title II.

# **Education**

## ***Teaching Staff and School Enrollment***

School principals and teachers must be certified according to State law. At this time the Southborough school system employs three full-time principals, two assistants and seventy-three full time and part time teachers under contract. Tenure is given after three years of service. A compulsory retirement program is provided by law with each teacher contributing 5% of his yearly salary.

There are four schools in Southborough. The Mary E. Finn School houses kindergarten through four, the Margaret A. Neary School houses kindergarten through five, and the Albert W. Woodward School, now known as the "Middle School," houses grades six, seven and eight. The South Union elementary school is closed temporarily. The high school, located in Northborough, is a regional school serving Northborough and Southborough students in grades nine through twelve. In December, 1971 there were 1,294 students enrolled in the three Southborough schools, and 403 Southborough students enrolled in the Algonquin Regional High School out of a total enrollment of 1,164. The pupil-teacher ratio is seventeen to one at the high school level and twenty-four to one at the elementary level.

## ***School Facilities***

School buildings and grounds are used by the community. School grounds provide the area needed for outdoor games organized by the town's Recreation Department. Buildings are made available to the public, in accordance with written School Committee policy, and are used by local organizations.

An impressive library and learning center at the Margaret A. Neary School is used extensively by teachers and students throughout the system. Woodward School has an elective program that includes French, home economics and shop. The Algonquin Regional High School Library and science laboratory provide excellent opportunities for the high school student.

## *Special Programs*

The Assabet Valley Regional Vocational-Technical School has been established which will serve Southborough in addition to other towns. At present, children desiring this type of training are given examinations and sent to Framingham, Worcester or Marlborough vocational schools.

All schools have hot lunch programs. There is a full-time registered nurse on duty at the High School. The school nurse in Southborough divides her time among the elementary schools.

Education of physically or mentally handicapped children is provided for by the town. Included is transportation to special schools. Because each case is different, the best possible school is selected. Special schools or classes are located in Northborough, Worcester, Framingham, Holliston, Marlborough and Rutland.

The Southborough school system has embarked on an extensive training program for perceptually handicapped children. Working with Framingham State College, several of the teachers are qualifying themselves for the innovative task of teaching children in this category.

The school system employs one full time and one part time guidance counsellor at the middle school level. In addition, a full time adjustment counsellor is employed and works with grades Kindergarten through five. Children who need psychiatric aid on a long term basis are referred to professional agencies outside the school system. A consulting psychologist is employed also on an hourly basis.

There is a varied adult education program at the High School, although the name of the program may be misleading since there are no accredited courses.

Southborough has a parent-teacher association, the Southborough Organization for Schools. This association holds general meetings to acquaint parents with the activities of the schools, and occasionally presents guest speakers on topics of specific interest.

## *Transportation*

Bus transportation is provided outside the one mile limit. Kindergarten children at the present time are bussed one way only.

Bus contracts are bid on a three year basis. School busses are inspected every two months. Drivers are required to have a Class 2 license and a D.P.U. license. Drivers must also pass a physical examination each year.

## *Independent Schools*

There are two independent schools located in Southborough. St. Mark's is a college preparatory boarding school for boys, established in 1865 by Dr. Joseph Burnett. Boys are accepted on a tuition basis in grades eight through twelve.

Fay School, also a boarding school for boys, was established in 1866 by Mrs. Eliza B. Burnett Fay and her sister, Miss Harriet M. Burnett. Boys are accepted in grades one through nine. Local boys, if qualified, may be admitted to both St. Mark's and Fay School at a reduced fee. Scholarship aid is available where needed.

Both schools serve the community in a variety of ways. Their recreational facilities, including the ice hockey rink and tennis courts, are made available to the townspeople on a scheduled basis.

